

DRAFT MINUTES

GOA WORK GROUP

Kodiak, Alaska

September 19-21, 2002

The committee convened at 1:10 pm. Co-Chairs Stephanie Madsen, Stosh Anderson, Dan Falvey, Dorothy Childers, Joe Childers, Julie Bonney, and Beth Stewart attended. Staff included Jane DiCosimo, Glenn Merrill, Phil Smith, and Kate Troll. Gregg Williams, Denby Lloyd, and Mike Ruccio attended one day. Approximately 40 members of the public attended all or parts of the 3-day meeting. The committee approved the August minutes without objection.

The committee discussed new proposals submitted by committee members that dealt with rationalization concepts (such as 2-pie, closed class co-ops, voluntary co-ops). The committee continued to refine its framework of those elements and options thought to be common to all rights based rationalization schemes. It identified its next tentative meeting dates: Oct 17/18 (10 am start) and November 25/26 (10 am start). At the next two meetings the committee intends to cut to the chase. It will review, streamline, and finalize its elements and options package for presentation to the NPFMC in December. It agreed to review draft minutes, draft elements and options by email. It will convene briefly on Tuesday afternoon (4:30 - 5:30 pm), October 1 for final revisions.

GOA Groundfish SEIS Scoping Report

Glenn Merrill presented an update on the four scoping meetings held to date. He reminded the committee that scoping ends on November 15, 2002. He will summarize all scoping comments into a final scoping report. It is scheduled to be presented to the Council at its December meeting. If numerous comments are received close to the November 15 deadline, a preliminary report may be provided in December, with a final report in February 2003.

Parallel Fishery Issues

Denby Lloyd discussed potential state solutions to the issue of additional fishing access in state waters after the federal fisheries are rationalized. He suggested that ADFG could petition the State Legislature to provide the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) with the authority to place additional limitations on vessels fishing in state waters. Stosh Anderson asked whether a legislative fix would be sufficient, and that perhaps a Constitutional fix may be required. Stephanie Madsen suggested that ADFG could begin consultation with the State Attorney's Office. Kate Troll told the committee that the State (ADFG, CFEC, Department of Law) is committed to begin to address this issue. Stosh Anderson identified that CFEC is proposing a limitation program on Tanner crabs, that will be one fewer fishery to develop sideboards. The committee continues to be concerned about this issue. It recommended that the Council request additional state staff work on this issue. Its recommendations are listed in Appendices 1 and 2.

PSC Halibut

Gregg Williams presented the IPHC report that was requested by the committee at its June meeting. Basically Greg stated that IPHC does not have a good enough dataset to forecast the potential impacts of allowing halibut retention in the directed p-cod fishery. Greg further stated that mortality rates associated with trawl and longlining were fully factored into the IPHC stock assessment model. The committee still seeks additional clarification on the effects that reduction in halibut mortality will have on the abundance estimates for determining TAC. Dan Falvey requested that IPHC look specifically at potential impacts for an early start in Area 3. There is not a fishery in Area 2C whereby the 2A, B, C migration issue is not applicable. Gregg Williams responded that data is limited because areas 3A and B are not well covered in the tagging study. The committee rewrote its questions and requested that the IPHC respond again (Appendix 3).

Non-Target Species

Glenn Merrill presented the NMFS non-target species bycatch report. Dan Falvey requested additional data, with the goal of replacing the current maximum retainable bycatch (MRB) program.

Other Species and Non-FMP Species

Jane DiCosimo reported on the groundfish proposal she submitted to the Groundfish Plan Teams to revise management of non-target species, which would include squid and other species and all non-targeted rockfish and flatfish, into a permanent bycatch category. The analysis would revise how those species would be managed and may have a major impact on analytical options for bycatch managements (e.g., MRBs, prohibited species catch limits) by separating that action into its own amendment package and timeline. It is possible that revising management of non-target species could be approved prior to action on GOA groundfish rationalization.

Data needs for Fishing History Assignment

The committee noted that its recommendations are based on preliminary data that do not separate state vs federal landings.

It clarified some data issues:

- 1) Excluding Prince William Sound pollock catch history
- 2) Both including and excluding meal catch history
- 3) Both including and excluding Southeast Outside trawl catch history (counting SEO history may dilute West Yakutat catch history)
- 4) Exempting West Yakutat cod trawl catch history.

The committee noted that Prince William Sound pollock state guideline harvest level was subtracted from the Western/Central/West Yakutat ABC for 2002. The committee noted that it may need to revisit its decision to drop a year for its options for LLP qualifying years 1998-2001, because it may be necessary to drop the year 2000 as well. It requested that Marcus Hartley provide percentile estimates for ownership caps by species.

Overview of Issues Addressed During the September Work Group Meeting

The committee refined and developed the range of alternatives and the suboptions under each of the alternatives. Committee members provided proposals, data, and alternatives addressing bycatch and PSC management, cooperative management and a review program concept. It reviewed several different proposals on incorporating community concerns into the rationalization alternatives. Several community proposals came from the Gulf Coastal Communities Coalition. Additionally, a proposal entitled CIFT was presented to the committee. The committee also received testimony on the effects of rationalization alternatives, specifically testimony concerning the need to address concerns raised by the Catcher/Processor sector. The committee initiated efforts to incorporate these concerns into the existing alternatives under development. The committee reviewed information provided by Northern Economics and developed several new data requests concerning parallel fishery management (request to ADF&G), halibut bycatch and season date changes (request to IPHC), and rockfish bycatch (request referred to Council staff). The committee identified that catcher processor proposals should be submitted to the committee via Council staff by November 1.

DRAFT ALTERNATIVES FOR GOA GROUND FISH RATIONALIZATION ANALYSIS

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| ALTERNATIVE 1. | No action |
| ALTERNATIVE 2. | Revise the License Limitation Program |
| ALTERNATIVE 3. | Harvester only allocation (A1-pie@) |
| Option 1. | Quota share program |
| Option 2. | Cooperative program |
| ALTERNATIVE 4. | Harvester allocation with closed class of processors (A1-pie,@with a closed class of processors) |
| Option 1. | Quota share program |
| Option 2. | Cooperative program |
| ALTERNATIVE 5. | Harvester and processor allocations (A2-pie@) |
| Option 1. | Quota share program |
| Option 2. | Cooperative program |

Public testimony was received from Craig Cochran, John Gauvin, Susan Robinson, John Gruver, Lori Swanson, Charlie Parsons, Tom Evitch, Mike Alferi, Pat Carlson, Doug Hoedel.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm, September 21, 2002.

DRAFT QUESTION FOR THE STATE

The Gulf Rationalization Committee requests that the Council ask the State to begin assessing its ability to implement regulations that would compliment the Council's attempts to rationalize the federal groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

After several lengthy discussions of the relative success of any rationalization program that doesn't include complimentary State action, the committee is convinced that the following assumptions and questions will provide the information needed to assess potential success of history-based rationalization programs.

In developing these assumptions, the committee is not presupposing that the Council will implement a quota share system. The committee simply believes that it will be much easier to fully understand the implications of such a program, only after these questions are asked and answered.

The GOA Rationalization Committee further recommends that the State work with fishermen that will be affected by these problems in developing solutions.

Assume that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council adopts a quota share system for rationalizing Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.

Assume that quota share recipients have typically fished both federal and state waters during the federal season.

Assume that vessels that are not recipients of quota share continue to fish in state waters during the federal fishery.

In this set of assumptions, the Council's attempts to rationalize the fishery are negated. The race for fish continues because the vessels that remain inside state waters during federal fisheries are decreasing the TAC available to quota share holders.

What tools does the state have that can solve this problem?

(describe the tools and any potential problems the state would face in implementing such solutions)

What tools would the state need to solve this problem?

(describe the difficulties in obtaining these tools)

APPENDIX 2

State water Parallel Fisheries to GOA Federal Groundfish Fisheries

The GOA working group recommends the council request the ADF&G to develop the following information regarding the Groundfish removals in State waters. The intent is to explore methods that may be possible under existing CFEC regulations to limit the State Waters Parallel Fisheries while ending the olympic style of harvesting.

- Have ADF&G provide their best estimate of the total bycatch by species for example Pacific Cod, Pollock, Rockfish etc. by gear type, in state waters during the 1995 - 2001 seasons.
- Estimates of the maximum number of permit holders qualifying for a limited entry permit by gear type in the state waters Parallel Groundfish Fisheries using existing CFEC regulation. The number of vessels that made the landing for the years 1995 - 2001 that would be the possible base years.
- An examination of how the Chatham sablefish Limited Entry model may be applied to the GOA Groundfish fisheries and the ability to establish different limits by gear type.
- Estimates of the numbers of discreet vessels participating in state waters during the years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 seasons. Numbers of vessels participating in both state parallel fisheries and the federal fisheries the years 1995 - 2001. If possible determine the number on individuals permit holders that made deliveries on the respective vessels per fishery.

APPENDIX 3

IPHC Request

The GOA working group recommended that the Council request that the IPHC evaluate the options for managing halibut bycatch in a rationalized Pacific Cod hook and line fishery, as follows:

- 1) Opening the directed P. Cod fishery on January 30 and allowing halibut bycatch retention of 10 to 20% during the period of January 30 to start of the halibut IFQ season, and from the end of the halibut IFQ season to December 15.
- 2) Opening the directed Southeast Outside DSR fishery on January 30 and allowing halibut bycatch retention of 10 to 20% during the period of January 30 to start of the halibut IFQ season, and from the end of the halibut IFQ season to December 15.
- 3) Possible impacts on the directed halibut fishery associated with treating halibut bycatch, in a rationalized hook and line P. Cod fishery in a similar approach to that used for halibut bycatch in the IFQ sablefish fishery.
- 4) Possible impacts on the directed halibut fishery associated with treating halibut bycatch, in a rationalized P. Cod Pot fishery in a similar approach to that currently used.

APPENDIX 4

Non-target bycatch data request

The GOA working group recommended that the Council request that staff develop tables summarizing the range of rockfish bycatch rates in the following fisheries by area, and gear type during the 1995 - 2001:

RE/SR, thornyhead, sablefish, pelagic and Other Slope bycatch rates in the directed fisheries for trawl POP, trawl deep water flatfish, trawl rex sole, hook & line sablefish, hook & line halibut, and hook & line P. cod by area with reference to the average rate and 75th percentile.